

REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims in order to further clarify the definition of various aspects of the present invention. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 24 to correct a typographical error, and have added new claim 29 to the application. Claim 29, dependent on claim 19, recites that the Cu<sub>2</sub>O phase is in the form of particles dispersed in the composite material.

The election-of-species requirement set forth in Item 2 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action mailed August 11, 2004, is noted. Consistent with the requirement therein, Applicants respectfully elect Embodiment I, which the Examiner indicates has claims 19-24 reading thereon. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 29 also reads on Embodiment I, such that, of the claims presently in the application, claims 19-24 and 29 read on the elected species.

Especially in view of new claim 29, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the election-of-species requirement, and consider herein on the merits all claims presently in the above-identified application.

Examination of the claims reading on Embodiment I (that is, claims 19-24 and 29), in due course, is respectfully requested.

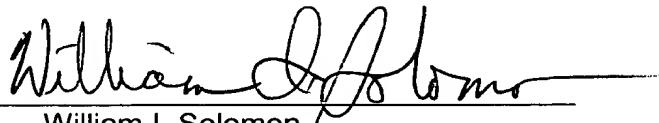
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Respectfully submitted,

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